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E & R AMENDMENTS TO LB 689

1                   1.     Strike the original sections and all amendments  
2     thereto and insert the following new sections:

3                   "Section 1.   The Distance Education Enhancement Task  
4     Force is created. Members of the task force shall be appointed on  
5     or before June 15, 2005, and shall include:

6                   (1) The chairperson and one other member of the Education  
7     Committee of the Legislature;

8                   (2) The chairperson of the Transportation and  
9     Telecommunications Committee of the Legislature;

10                  (3) The chairperson of the Appropriations Committee of  
11     the Legislature;

12                  (4) One representative of educational service units;

13                  (5) One representative of distance education consortia;

14                  (6) One representative of the State Department of  
15     Education who has expertise in technology infrastructure;

16                  (7) One representative of the Public Service Commission;

17                  (8) Two representatives of the Nebraska Information  
18     Technology Commission;

19                  (9) Two representatives of postsecondary education who  
20     have expertise in technology infrastructure, distance education, or  
21     dual-enrollment courses;

22                  (10) One representative of the Governor;

23                  (11) Two members who are either school district  
24     superintendents or public school principals; and

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1                   (12) One representative of the Nebraska Educational  
2 Telecommunications Commission who has expertise in technology  
3 infrastructure or distance education.

4                   The members listed in subdivisions (1), (4), (5), (6),  
5 (7), (9), (11), and (12) of this section shall be appointed by the  
6 Executive Board of the Legislative Council. The members listed in  
7 subdivisions (8) and (10) of this section shall be appointed by the  
8 Governor.

9                   The chairperson of the Education Committee of the  
10 Legislature shall be the chairperson of the task force and shall  
11 call the initial and subsequent meetings of the task force.  
12 Members of the task force shall be reimbursed for their actual and  
13 necessary expenses incurred in carrying out their duties as members  
14 of the task force as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177. The  
15 Education Committee of the Legislature, the Transportation and  
16 Telecommunications Committee of the Legislature, the Legislative  
17 Fiscal Analyst, the State Department of Education, and the Nebraska  
18 Information Technology Commission shall provide research and  
19 administrative support for the task force. For budgetary purposes  
20 only, the task force shall be within the Legislative Council.

21                   The task force shall terminate on December 31, 2005.

22                   Sec. 2. The Distance Education Enhancement Task Force  
23 shall develop an improvement plan to upgrade and coordinate  
24 distance education in Nebraska. The task force shall make  
25 recommendations for policies and potential legislation to the Clerk  
26 of the Legislature, the Education Committee of the Legislature, the  
27 Transportation and Telecommunications Committee of the Legislature,

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1 and the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature on or before  
2 December 31, 2005. The plan shall include, but not be limited to:

3 (1) The development of a high capacity, scalable  
4 telecommunications infrastructure;

5 (2) The development of an Internet protocol-based network  
6 to interconnect all existing and future distance education and  
7 videoconferencing facilities;

8 (3) Upgrades of current telecommunications equipment;

9 (4) Training and support programs for educators in the  
10 development and use of distance learning;

11 (5) The transfer of distance education coordination  
12 responsibilities from distance education consortia to educational  
13 service units on or before July 1, 2007;

14 (6) Statewide coordination for distance education  
15 offerings;

16 (7) Potential funding sources;

17 (8) The establishment of an equitable and affordable  
18 financing system for both equipment and usage;

19 (9) The establishment of a system that allows school  
20 districts to purchase quality distance education offerings from  
21 other school districts either directly or with educational service  
22 units acting as fiscal agents; and

23 (10) Statewide provision of other technology-based  
24 services.

25 The task force may hold one or more public hearings to  
26 obtain public input.

27 Sec. 3. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect

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- 1 when passed and approved according to law.".
- 2                   2.     On page 1, strike beginning with the first "to" in
- 3 line 3 through the semicolon in line 4.